

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING

September 14, 2026

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. at Woodruff High School, in room 130. Agenda notice was distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal, Woodruff Times, Post and Courier and listed on the District website at spartanburg4.org/do/agenda.

Chairman Morgan Smith called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the August 3 meeting were approved as submitted.

Mr. Chris Benfield, Assistant Superintended of Business and Finance, presented a statement of revenue and expenditures for the Title 1 program and discussed how the allocation is used.

Mrs. Christine Morris, Woodruff High School principal, announced that after many years of applying to various JROTC programs, Woodruff High School has been selected to be a part of the Air Force JROTC program. WHS plans to open an Air Force JROTC program in the 2027-2028 school year.

Superintendent Report – Dr. Aaron Fulmer

1. The SCSBA Legislative Delegate Assembly is being held December 4-6, 2026, in Charleston. Nathan Craig is the voting delegate, and Sandy Norman is the alternate.
2. Policy updates and revisions will be presented at the October meeting for first reading.
3. Two school calendars will be presented at next month's meeting.
4. The process for the security camera bid is a lengthy process. We should have a bid for approval at next month's meeting.

The following reports were submitted:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Dover submitted the following report:

1. Calendar of Events for September 2026 is attached.
2. Beginning of the year assessments are being finalized.
 - a. 4K- GOLD (ongoing); Phonological Awareness Screeners
 - b. 5K – i-Ready Reading and Math; Phonics Screeners
 - c. 1st – i-Ready Reading and Math

Teachers will continue to administer the following:

- d. 4K – DIAL-4
 - e. 5K – KRA
 - f. 1st - Phonics Screeners
3. WPS welcomed 7 teacher cadets from Woodruff High School. Thank you to Caroline Bullington, Amber Blaile, and Samantha Pearson for volunteering to host these students. They were able to observe and spend time learning from the teachers and students in these classrooms. We look forward to having them back again soon!
 4. All WPS students were able to participate in a testing celebration, "You're One Smart Cookie!" for their efforts in all beginning of the year assessments.
 5. Allison Duckett and Erin Gambrell have completed the first part of LETRS Facilitator Training. They will be training our group of first-year teachers in Volume 1 of LETRS. We appreciate their efforts in completing this training so District 4 can train teachers in-house. Throughout the year they will complete the facilitator training and be able to train teachers in Volumes 1 and 2.
 6. We have several teachers who will be sharing their expertise to provide professional learning in different areas. Jen Brown, a kindergarten teacher, will be leading a series of professional

development sessions on Conscious Discipline. Amber Blaile and Suzie Richard, both kindergarten teachers, will be leading a professional learning session on testing with young children and sharing some successful strategies for using i-Ready in the classroom.

September 2026

7 – Labor Day

8 – PTO Fundraiser Ends

14-18 – Book Fair

23 – School Picture Day

23 - See You at the Pole

25 – School Family Celebration

Enrollment- As of 9/3/2026

Grade Level	# on Roll	# in PS	Difference	Why
1/2-day 3K	49	53	-4	4- Moon (Special Education)
4k	112	115	-3	3- Moon (Special Education)
5K	179	191	-12	5-Helms & 7- Humerez (Special Education) 1- Satellite
1st	185	191	-6	2- Helms (Special Education) 3-Humerez (Special Education) 1- MT (Turner)
TOTAL	525	550	25	10- Humerez, 7- Helms, 7- Moon, 2- McCarthy Teszler

Woodruff Elementary School

Dr. McCoy submitted the following:

Summary:

Woodruff Elementary continues to make meaningful progress in building a strong school culture while strengthening instructional practices through collaboration, data, and intentional planning. Our staff is focused on creating a school environment where students feel connected, supported, and challenged to grow.

Staffing and Personnel

- One vacancy remains for Behavior Interventionist/bus driver.

Student Enrollment

- As of September 9, our enrollment is as follows:

August 2026				
Grade Level	# on Roll	# in PS	Difference	Why
2nd	173	177	-6	6 - Beckner(Self Cont./SPED)
3rd	195	204	-9	7 - Beckner (Self Cont./SPED) 2 – Amick (SPED)
Total	368	381	-13	

Facilities and Operations

- Continuing to address maintenance requests and work orders to ensure classrooms and common areas remain safe, functional, and welcoming for students and staff.

Teaching and Learning

- Held our first school-wide planning sessions, providing teams with dedicated time to collaborate around instruction and student needs.
- Continuing to encourage intentional planning that supports teachers while increasing the impact of instructional time.
- Third grade ELA teachers are making intentional instructional shifts based on student needs.
- Second grade teachers are incorporating hands-on phonics tools to increase student engagement and strengthen foundational literacy skills.
- Math teachers began intentional student grouping conversations using data to better target instruction and maximize instructional time.

Family and Community Engagement

- Hosted a successful Hat Day, providing an opportunity for students and staff to celebrate school spirit and build community.
- Our school counselor has started building partnerships within the community to ensure that students have needed resources. She is also working to plan our Vehicle Career Day currently. It will be held late October.
- Our PTO is up and running with some of our first fundraisers in the works.

Major Accomplishments

- A significant strength has been the intentional focus on building relationships and supporting students. Staff members have also demonstrated a willingness to step in and support students when needs arise, reinforcing a culture where students know adults are available to help them succeed.
- We successfully completed i-Ready testing, providing valuable information to help teachers identify student strengths, areas for growth, and appropriate next steps. Additionally, our first school-wide planning sessions provided teams with dedicated time to collaborate, examine student needs, and develop intentional plans for instruction and support.

Looking Ahead

- As we continue through September, our priorities include strengthening instructional practices through classroom observations, coaching, and collaborative reflection. We will continue to use assessment information, teacher expertise, and research to dig deeper into student learning and determine intentional instructional shifts for greater outcomes. We will also continue refining intervention supports, expanding family engagement opportunities, and building a collaborative culture where teachers work together to understand student needs, adjust practices, and ultimately strengthen student achievement.

Upcoming Dates

- **Tuesday, September 15:** PD w/ Special Services (Mrs. McConnell & Dr. Meta) & An Inclusive Environment (WES Admin)
- **Thursday, September 17 & Thursday, September 24:** Second grade Watershed
- **Monday, September 21 - Friday, September 25:** Fall Book Fair
- **Tuesday, September 22:** Tuesday Team Connect (Grade Level Planning)
- **Wednesday, September 23:** See you at the Pole
- **Tuesday, September 29 & Wednesday, September 30:** Third grade Watershed

Woodruff Intermediate School

Mrs. Giada Parris submitted the following:

1. Students began i-Ready testing on August 24th.
2. Chromebooks have been distributed to students. The librarian has been implementing lessons with students regarding digital citizenship and taking care of Chromebooks.

3. Kids for Christ started September 8th.
4. We hosted four WHS Teacher Cadets on September 10th.
5. WIS participated in a moment of silence to honor the 9/11 victims.
6. The Watershed Program was at WIS September 15th. This program is called "All Around the World" USC Upstate Science Enrichment Lessons for students.
7. 5th Grade will go to Barrier Island and Boone Hall Plantation in the Spring. The approximate cost is \$130 per student.
8. Professional Development:
 - a. Mrs. Thompson began her second year of LETRS training. This is a two-year commitment.
 - b. Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Mosteller will be participating in Volume I LETRS.
 - c. Mrs. Mosteller and Mrs. Greene will attend a Professional Development in Laurens on September 22nd.
9. Professional Development/Webinars
 - a. Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. Carroll, and Mr. Connolly will attend SC Mentor Training at Anderson University.

Estimated Enrollment for WIS as of 9/3/26

	#
4 th Grade	176
5 th Grade	194
Total	370

September Calendar

9-1 Gifted Art
 9-7 Labor Day
 9-8 Gifted Art
 9-11 Heart4Schools Food Bags Start Date
 9-14 Gifted Music Begins
 9-15 4th Grade Watershed "All Around the World"
 Gifted Art
 9-16 4th Grade Watershed "All Around the World"
 9-17 NED Show 9:00 am & 10:00 am
 9-21 5th Grade Watershed "As a Matter of Fact"
 Gifted Music
 9-22 Fall Pictures
 5th Grade Watershed Program "As a Matter of Fact"
 Gifted Art
 9-23 See You at The Pole 7:15 am
 5th Grade Watershed Program "As a Matter of Fact"
 9-25 Student Council 7:20
 LETRS Training
 9-28 Gifted Music

Woodruff Middle School

Mr. Scott Lawson submitted the following:

1. Current enrollment figures:
 6th – 195 7th – 237 8th – 228
2. Interims were sent home with students on September 9.
3. MAP testing and IXL diagnostics have been completed.

4. Gifted Art, FCA, Maroon on a Mission, and fishing club have each started their fall meeting schedule.
5. WMS volleyball season and football seasons are underway.
6. The following students have art on display at the Woodruff Leisure Center: Bonnie Bynum, Alejandra Amaro Arias, Leah Pogodayev, Saydie Ricahrds, Tyler Lee Abbott, Landen Alewine, Delta Luby, Reylene Smith, Conyer Wood, and Konnor Simmons.
7. September 4 was "college colors day" for staff and Pelicans at lunch for students.

Calendar of Events:

September 14 WMS VB at HPA/Vision to Learn glasses distribution 930am

September 16 WMS VB at Mabry

September 17 WMS FB at Clifdale

September 21 WMS VB at home vs Sims/Ice cream sales

September 23 WMS VB at home vs Jonesville/SYAP

September 24 WMS FB at home vs Sims/Book Fair begins

September 28 WMS VB at home vs Landrum/Spirit Week begins

September 30 WMS VB at Campobello

October 1 WMS FB at Ewing/ Last day of book fair

October 2 In-service day/WHS Homecoming vs Landrum

October 5 WMS VB at Clifdale

October 6 Ice cream sales

October 7 WMS FB at home vs Chesnee

October 9 Fall pictures

October 14 Report Cards/WMS FB at home vs Chapman

October 15-16 Fall Break

October 21 PSAT

October 22 WMS FB at Landrum

October 28 Ice Cream sales

October 29 Picture make-up

Woodruff High School

Mrs. Christine Morris presented the following:

- Open House was a big success. Brief class meetings were held before parents and students followed their schedule moving from first block to fourth. Prior to Open House guidance held a senior class meeting.
- WHS held its first fire drill and lockdown drill. Both were successful. We did make some modifications to better ensure the safety of all.
- Special Education Liaison Shannon Murphy held Q&A sessions for teachers regarding IEPs/504s/Testing lab.
- Student Council has met and planned out football theme nights and are in the process of planning all homecoming events.
- Students can attend before school and after school HWC to work off demerits, make up assessments (PM only), and hours (PM only). Students must sign up by 3rd block Friday using our newly created Google Form to attend Saturday School to do the same. It is open 9-12.
- Students took our first SEL Survey for the year during Wolverine Enrichment on Wednesday, August 26.
- Mrs. Lawson took her Modern US History class to visit the Anne Frank Center at USC in Columbia. They had been studying the Holocaust, and this was a perfect opportunity to really experience it on a more personal level.
- Carson Calhoun (underclassman) and Alexis Baldwin (upperclassman) were recognized as August Student of the Month recipients.

Date	Event
9/8	Jostens Class Meetings (10 th and 12 th)

9/9	Interims
9/11	Ring Ceremony (9:30 am in the theater)
9/14	BETA Club Induction
9/19	Student Council serves Soup Kitchen
9/22	Senior Make Up Pictures
9/23	See You at The Pole
9/24	Cross Country Pizza Inn Fundraiser
9/25	Scoops Homecoming Parade/Powder Puff
9/26	Art Fall Wreath Fundraiser
9/28-29	Drive 2 Zero (Theater)
10/1	Pep Rally – PM Activity Schedule
10/2	Homecoming
10/3	SAT Homecoming Dance
10/13	Meeting Street Meeting (12 th Grade)
10/14	Report Cards
10/21	Mayor's Walk
10/22	Make Up Pictures (underclassmen) – LAST CHANCE, Dinner Night
10/24	Band Yard Sale
10/26	Earthquake Drill
10/27	WIN/ASVAB/PSAT
10/30	Scoops
11/11	Interims
11/13	Scoops
11/14	Art Market
11/19	Dinner Night

Instructional Reports

Mrs. Rachel Traynham submitted the following:

1. SPED

- a. Liaison Positions- We have made some changes. Samantha Amick will only serve WIS as Liaison. Patricia Mosley will serve WES.
- b. Liaisons meet monthly with Dr. Metta and Mrs. McConnell
- c. Speech interventions are beginning this month. Please allow your Speech Pathologists to change their schedule as needed to accommodate students for intervention services.

2. Federal Programs

- a. Our Title I and Title II Plans have been approved.
- b. CTE Applications are due at the end of the month
- c. IDEA is due this month and Assurances have been submitted.
- d. The Office of Civil Rights has released their CRDC Data collection from 2023-2024 school year (lag-data reporting). The report for Spartanburg Four can be found on the Civil Rights Data website PUD (Public-Use Data) file.

3. Mental Health

- a. Student Numbers are increasing. We are getting new referrals daily and have already had a student transported and staying in long-term treatment this school year.

4. Satellite/Whitlock:

- a. There is already an increase in the number of students countywide who need satellite services. With the increase, districts are looking at ways to support students in their home-school environments.
- b. Whitlock:
 - i. WMS-3
 - ii. WHS-11

5. Teacher of the Year Game

- a. Friday at the Home football game 09/11/26
- b. Teachers and Administrators arrive at 6:50 and meet me on the home sideline near locker room. Presentation will be held prior to the game around 7:05.

Mrs. Jennifer Turner submitted the following report:

1. Mrs. Samantha Pearson will continue to serve in the part-time role of Educational Technology Specialist for Spartanburg School District Four. Professional development opportunities for the 2026-2027 school year may include topics such as Getting Started with i-Ready, Getting Started with Google, Classlink sessions, Magic School, and additional workshops.
2. The 2026-2027 Spartanburg School District Four District and School Report Cards will be posted on or before October 15, 2026. All public schools in South Carolina will receive a rating ranging from Excellent to Below Average when points are calculated across domains such as Academic Achievement (3-12), Student Progress (3-8), Preparing for Success (3-12), Multilingual Learners' Progress (3-12), School Climate (3-12), Graduation Rate (9-12), and High School Student Success (9-12).
3. Board members received an updated 2026-2027 testing calendar for Spartanburg School District Four.

Mr. Russell Mahaffey submitted the following report:

1. Teachers are evaluated under the Expanded ADEPT system. Teachers and Principals access and sign evaluation forms in SC LEAD. This system requires a specified number of meetings to discuss progress toward Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and feedback on classroom observations. Principals provided orientations for induction, annual, and continuing contract teachers at the beginning of the school year. They are currently meeting with staff to discuss and establish SLOs. These meetings must be completed by *September 22nd*.
2. Principals are evaluated under the PADEPP system. They are required to set goals related to student achievement and/or the needs assessment in the School Renewal Plans. In addition, Principals are evaluated on the nine PADEPP standards every three years. They are evaluated on two of the nine PADEPP standards every year, which are Instructional Leadership and Principal's Professional Development. The deadline for their orientation and goal-setting conferences is *September 15th*.
3. Thirty-nine teachers have professional licenses that will expire on June 30, 2027. Eighteen of those teachers have already submitted the 120 credits required for certificate renewal.
4. The first Induction class met on August 18th and the second class met on September 8th. The August session addressed the following topics: Overview of the Induction Program, Expanded ADEPT System, SC Teaching Standards 4.0 Rubric, SC LEAD Evaluation Portal, Data Analysis, Needs Assessment, and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). The September meeting addressed the following topics: Trauma Informed Practices/Adverse Childhood Experiences; Trauma Sensitive Practices – Skills of Resilience; Environment Domains: Expectations, Engaging Students, Managing Behavior, Environment, and Respectful Culture.

Facilities

BAN 2026 Projects – Board received a list.

2026 / 2027 School Year Projects – Board received a list.

New WHS – Work continues on the Punchlist.

Spring Sports- Passed final inspection 9/9/26.

Summer Projects - Board received a list of completed work

Board Action

The following policies were submitted for first reading:

- ADF- District Wellness
- GBEEB – Staff Use of Artificial Intelligence
- IHAE- Physical Education
- IJND-Artificial Intelligence Responsible Use

Approved the Funding Flexibility for fiscal year 2026-2027 by negotiating salaries for two retirees.